

CONFERENCE OF THE EIGHTEEN-NATION COMMITTEE
ON DISARMAMENT

PRIVATE
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14 March 1962
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THE UNIVERSITY
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COLLECTION

FINAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE FIRST MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Wednesday, 14 March 1962, at 4 p.m.

Acting Chairman:

Mr. O. LOUTFI

Special Representative of
the Secretary-General of
the United Nations

Chairman:

U THI HAN

(Burma)

PRESENT AT THE TABLE

Brazil:

Mr. SAN THIAGO DANTAS
Mr. C.A. BERNARDES
Mr. RODRIGUES RIBOS
Mr. de ARAUJO CASTRO

Bulgaria:

Mr. C. LOUCANOV
Mr. M. TARABANOV
Mr. K. CHRISTOV
Mr. V. PALINE

Burma:

U Thi HAN
Mr. J. BARRINGTON
U Tin MAUNG
U Aye LWIN

Canada:

Mr. H. GREEN
Mr. E.L.M. BURNS
Mr. J.E.G. HARDY
Mr. J.F.M. BELL

Czechoslovakia:

Mr. V. DAVID
Mr. J. HAJEK
Mr. E. PEPICH
Mr. M. ZEMLA

Ethiopia:

Mr. K. YIFRU
Mr. A. MANDEFRO
Mr. M. HAMID

India:

Mr. V.K. KRISHNA MENON
Mr. M.J. DESAI
Mr. A.S. LALL
Mr. A.S. MEHTA

PRESENT AT THE TABLE (cont'd)

Italy:

Mr. A. SEGNI
Mr. C. RUSSO
Mr. F. CAVALLETTI
Mr. F. SENSI

Mexico:

Mr. L. PADILLA NERVO
Mr. E. CALDERÓN PUIG
Miss E. AGUIRRE
Mr. A. ICAZA

Nigeria:

Mr. J. WACHUKU
Mr. A.A. ATTA
Mr. A. HAASSTRUP

Poland:

Mr. A. RAPACKI
Mr. M. NASZKOWSKI
Mr. M. LACHS
Mr. M. BIEN

Romania:

Mr. C. MANESCU
Mr. G. MACOVESCU
Mr. C. SANDRU
Mr. M. MALITZA

Sweden:

Mrs. A. MYRDAL
Mr. R. EDBERG
Baron C.H. von PLATEN
Mr. G.A. WESTRING

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:

Mr. A.A. GROMYKO
Mr. V.A. ZORIN
Mr. V.S. SEMENOV

PRESENT AT THE TABLE (cont'd)

United Arab Republic:

Mr. M. FAWZI
Mr. A.F. HASSAN
Mr. A. TALAAT
Mr. M.S. AHMED

United Kingdom:

The Earl of Home
Mr. J.B. GODBER
Sir Michael WRIGHT
Mr. J.S.H. SHATTOCK

United States of America:

Mr. D. RUSK
Mr. A.H. DEAN
Mr. W.C. FOSTER
Mr. C.C. STELLE

Special Representative of the
Secretary-General:

Mr. O. LOUTFI

Deputies to the Special Representative
of the Secretary-General:

Mr. T.G. NARAYANAN
Mr. W. EPSTEIN

STATEMENT BY THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Mr. LOUTFI (Special Representative of the Secretary-General) (translation from French): I declare open the first meeting of the Conference of the Eighteen Nation Committee on Disarmament.

On behalf of Acting Secretary-General U Thant, it is my privilege to welcome you to the Palais des Nations. The fact that Heads of Governments have focussed their attention on this Conference and that so many of the participants are represented here by their Foreign Ministers attests to the seriousness and importance of the work of the Conference.

The role of the United Nations in the developments leading up to the establishment of the Disarmament Committee and to the convening of this Conference demonstrates once again the determination of the international community that every possible effort be made to end the intensifying armaments race. The Members of the United Nations, in exercising their responsibilities under the Charter in the field of disarmament, have recognized the usefulness of direct talks between the major Powers as well as the practical contributions which may be made by the less powerful nations and, in fact, by all Members of the Organization. The recent General Assembly resolutions related to disarmament questions would seem to indicate that the Members of the United Nations intend to persist in this field until the world's deep and growing concern has been transmuted into concrete achievements.

No one can fail to recognize the complexity of your task and the difficulties which you must overcome. Positive and hopeful elements do, however, exist. The Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America have agreed upon a joint statement of principles for disarmament negotiations, and the General Assembly has unanimously recommended that those principles should be the basis for your negotiations. Moreover, with the unanimous endorsement of the General Assembly, the new composition of the negotiating body ensures that the views of the different regions of the world and different political approaches will be given full expression in these negotiations. A new opportunity is provided for bringing to bear in your negotiations influences which might help to bridge the chasm of mutual fear and distrust.

(Mr. Loutfi)

The resumption of general disarmament negotiations after a hiatus of almost two years can, in itself, provide a valuable step towards the relaxation of international tensions, as well as towards a solution of the formidable problem of achieving general and complete disarmament under effective international control. The establishment and convening of the Disarmament Committee is evidence of your will to negotiate; it is the hope of all the Members of the United Nations that your progress report to the Disarmament Commission, which is due by 1 June 1962, will also give evidence of the large extent of your will to agree.

In the unavoidable absence of Acting Secretary-General U Thant at the opening of this Conference, I have been asked by him to convey to all of you his warm greetings and earnest good wishes for your success. In accordance with the Assembly resolution, it is his desire to provide all the assistance and services necessary for your work. All of us of the Secretariat will continue to do everything within our means to facilitate the smooth functioning of this Conference.

Your Excellencies, I presume that the rest of this meeting will be private and restricted to delegations and members of the Committee. In order to allow the secretariat staff time to prepare the room for the second part of the meeting, which will be private, I propose that the Committee adjourn for ten minutes.

The meeting was suspended at 4.20 p.m. and resumed at 4.30 p.m.

SELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Mr. LOUTFI (Special Representative of the Secretary-General) (translation from French): I declare open the second, private, part of this meeting of the Eighteen Nation Committee on Disarmament.

I am sure you will agree with me that our first task is to select from among you a Chairman to conduct the debates of your Conference. You have before you a joint proposal by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to the effect that I, as representative of the Secretary-General, should draw the name of the Chairman of this meeting by lot. If there is no objection, I will now proceed to do so.

It was so agreed.

Mr. LOUTFI (Special Representative of the Secretary-General) (translation from French): I have great pleasure in announcing to the Conference that the representative of Burma has been drawn by lot to preside over this meeting.

I therefore call upon H.E. the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Burma and Head of the Burmese Delegation to take the chair.

U Thi Han (Burma) took the chair.

PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CONFERENCE

The CHAIRMAN (Burma): I deem it a privilege that the honour of being the Chairman of this first meeting of the Conference of the Eighteen Nation Committee on Disarmament has fallen to me.

I believe that the first order of business that this Conference may wish to consider is that relating to the adoption of procedural arrangements for the conduct of its business. Members have before them in this regard a joint proposal by the delegations of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and of the United States of America. May I invite observations on this document?

The proposals of the delegations of the United States and of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics are:

"1. Nature of meetings

All meetings will be private except when otherwise agreed by the participating States."

Paragraph 1 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN (Burma): We come to the second point.

"2. Time of meetings

There will be one meeting a day at ..., Mondays through Fridays, unless otherwise agreed. If experience proves that this time creates difficulties for any delegation the matter may be raised again for further discussion."

Will representatives please suggest a time for the meeting?

Mr. WACHUKU (Nigeria): I would suggest we meet from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

We have a precedent for this in the meetings of the United Nations.

Mr. RUSK (United States of America): I wonder if our colleague from Nigeria would be willing to agree that a starting hour is relatively easy to decide but that a termination hour is not so easy to decide. Perhaps we could agree to begin our meetings at 10 a.m. and leave it to the mercy of our colleagues and the Chair as to when we shall adjourn.

Mr. WACHUKU (Nigeria): I appreciate the point, but if we do not put a time-limit, everybody will feel free to speak as long as he likes. The Chairman always has discretion in this regard. He can decide whether to adjourn at 1 o'clock or not. Therefore, if we put a time-limit the Chairman will determine when it is 1 o'clock.

Paragraph 2, including the suggestion of the representative of Nigeria, was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN (Burma): We come to the third point.

"3. Publicity and communique

Publicity by or on behalf of the Committee will be limited to the agreed communique following each meeting. The draft communique will be prepared by the Chairman and approved by the participating States. Normally, it will refer to the Chairmanship of the meeting, the title of any new documents tabled, agreements reached, the time of the next meeting, and, when required, the release of Committee verbatim records and documents."

Paragraph 3 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN (Burma): We come to the fourth point.

"4. Languages and records

The official languages of the Committee will be English, French, Russian and Spanish. There will be simultaneous interpretation into each of those languages, and verbatim records will be provided in the four languages. Any member may speak in his own language provided he

(The Chairman, Burma)

makes available simultaneous interpretation into an official language. Normally, verbatim records will be made available after a delay of two weeks for public use through the United Nations Secretariat at Geneva and New York unless otherwise decided."

Paragraph 4 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN (Burma): We come to the fifth point.

"5. Seating and Chairmanship

Delegations will be seated in English alphabetical order, with two members of each delegation at the table. Two seats shall be reserved for the Secretariat on either side of the Chairman of the meeting. The Chair will be rotated daily in English alphabetical order among all members of the Committee. The permanent co-Chairmen of the Committee will be the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America. The Chairman of the incoming meeting will normally consult with the co-Chairmen of the Committee regarding the next day's business. The co-Chairman will consult with each other and other delegations, as desirable, with the aim of facilitating both the formal and informal work of the Conference."

Are there any comments?

Mr. KRISHNA MENON (India): We are in full agreement with the idea that everything we do here should be by unanimous consent. We have no desire, therefore, to propose anything that will not meet with such consent. But I am bound to express the view of my Government that for many reasons we would be quite content to leave the Chairmanship of this Conference in the hands of the United States and the Soviet Union. We shall naturally be willing to accept fully whatever decision is agreed upon, but we had hoped that the view I have just expressed would be adopted.

Mr. ELWEI (United Arab Republic): On this point my delegation is inclined to think similarly to, though not necessarily in identical terms with, the representative of India. The arrangement proposed appears to us to be lacking in

(Mr. Fawzi, United Arab Republic)

some ways, and it could be improved upon. However, my delegation prefers not to belabour this point, and I think we should all concentrate on more basic matters, for which we are gathered here.

Paragraph 5 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN (Burma): We have completed our discussion of procedural arrangements, and we now have to consider the communique to the Press.

The Conference decided to issue the following communique:

"The Conference of the Eighteen Nation Committee on Disarmament held its first meeting at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 14 March 1962 at 4 p.m.

"On behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Omar Loutfi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the Conference of the Eighteen Nation Committee on Disarmament, welcomed the delegations participating in the work of the Conference.

"After the conclusion of the open part of the meeting the Conference chose, during the closed part of the meeting, its Chairman for the first meeting. His Excellency U Thi Han, the chairman of the delegation of Burma, was chosen as Chairman.

"The Conference considered the procedural arrangements for the conduct of its meetings, and adopted them.

"The Conference decided to release to the Press the text of the procedural arrangements adopted.

"The next meeting of the Conference will take place on Thursday, 15 March 1962, at 10 a.m."

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.